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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applic. No. : PCT/DE2003/002982  
Applicant : HIRN, Rainer et al.  
Int'l Filing Date: 12 September 2003  
Art Unit : N/A  
Examiner : N/A  
Docket No. : S3-02P01381  
Customer No.: 24131

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Preliminary to examination kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.